

August 27

Luke 13:24

Restricted Entry?



**Strive to enter in at
the strait gate: for
many, I say unto
you, will seek to
enter in, and shall
not be able.**

How would one
“strive to enter”
at the strait
gate? Why would
one need to strive
(struggle,
go all-out, make
every effort) since
salvation
is a matter of
faith?

Someone asked Jesus

if only few would be saved. Today's verse was part of Jesus' answer. He then continued with a parable:

After the master of the house has gotten up and shut the door, and while you're standing outside of it knocking and requesting the door

be opened, the master
will say something.

He'll say to you: I
don't know who
you are. In response,
you'll say, but You
do know us because
we have eaten and
drank with You and
You've taught us.
Nevertheless, the
master will say, I'm

telling you that I do
not know you so get
away from me, you
iniquity workers.

It appears that Jesus
was talking to Jews
who apparently felt
that WHO they were
and WHAT they had
done, automatically
entitled them to
being “in”—on the
inside; saved.

However, Jesus was conveying a message that would transcend them and their time, and to us and ours—and beyond. It was an important principle. He gave an example of how the “iniquity” of self-delusion could cause permanent loss.

Jesus was saying that
just because you're
hanging around me,
so to speak, or are in
my presence, or are of
a certain lineage,
doesn't make you "in".

He continued by
saying that those from
east, west, north, and
south— those who were
never *physically* close to

him, would enter but, though some may have benefit of lineage or location, those who were iniquity workers, would be “thrust out”.

So then, a way to understand the ‘striving to enter in’ is the struggle to overcome the self-deception from any

way of thinking one
is pre-set or privileged
based on surface
means. Such ways
include being an
Israelite or particular
shades of skin, or
attending religious
services, or paying
so-called “tithes”,
belonging to a certain
family or social
organization, having

long/short hair,
wearing long sleeves,
speaking in tongues,
being a “good person”,
patriotism, etc).

The point is to not
become deceived by
self-reliance with
regard to salvation.
Examine the reasons
you believe you are
heaven-bound. Dare

to do something really serious. **Ask God to search your heart** (1 Chron. 8:9; Psalms 44:21; 139:23-24; Jeremiah 17:10; Romans. 8:27).

Be honest.
Don't stay in
a condition in
which you will end
up seeing, "Restricted

Entry” and hearing,
“Leave”.

Don't proudly lie to
yourself while living
in rebellion.

